Pilferage of Coking Coal imported by SAIL

3148. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of pilferage of coking coal imported by SAIL while in transit from port to Bokaro and other Steel Plants by road;

(b) whether any enquiry has been made about such pilferage;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) if not, reasons therefor;

(e) whether any local official has been found to be involved in such pilferage, as without the connivance of local officials such pilferage is unlikely; and

(f) the action taken to stop the pilferage and to punish the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Inland transportation of imported coking coal from ports to steel plants of SAIL takes place by trains and not by road.

(b) to (f) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Poor quality products by Bokaro Steel Plant

3149. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether several customers returned the products complaining poor quality causing a huge loss to Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) whether M/s. ITW Signore has been given contract for supplying packaging material/ equipments for finish products to BSL without following the proper procedure of tendering and awarding contracts;

(c) whether this company supplied the packaging materials/equipments worth Rs. 1.57 crores only against the order of Rs. 36.85 crores during 1995 — February 1997; and

(d) if so, whether a CBI enquiry is likely to be ordered into the whole affairs for investigation and responsibility fixed for the losses suffered by the BSL?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production target for Rourkela Steel Plant

3150. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rourkela Steel Plant failed to meet production targets in 1996-97 despite recent upgradation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to rectify the reasons which led to sluggish output?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Rourkela Steel Plant achieved 91% of saleable steel target during 1996-97. The shortfall was mainly due to the delay in starting, commissioning and stabilisation of different modernised units.

(c) Main steps being taken to improve production include Stabilisation of concast route, commissioning of Ro, Vo stands and Coilbox in Hot Strip Mill, emphasis on Raw Materials Quality, upgradation of BF-III with BLT, thyristorisation of Cold Rolling Mill units etc.

Resource generation by state owned steel companies

3151. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount the state owned steel companies are expected to mop up as internal and extra budgetary resources during the Ninth Plan Period (1997-2002) as compared to the Eighth Plan Period/projections, indicating an increase in percentage in real terms;

(b) whether the internal resource mobilization resources have been fixed at Rs. 11,501 crore and an equivalent amount (Rs. 11,279 crores) as extra budgetary resouces in respect of such companies as reported in the Financial Express, New Delhi, dated 1st March, 1997;

(c) if so, the amount pegged by way of External Commercial borrowings and through bonds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?